

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims:**

Claims 11-23 and 34-77 are pending in this application. For the Examiner's reference, claims 1-10 and 24-33 were previously canceled by the Amendment of December 31, 2001.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1-77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara et al. (US 5,745,711) in view of Kamata et al. (US 5,953,050). As noted above, claims 1-10 and 24-33 were canceled by the Amendment of December 31, 2001.

The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of the pending claims for the reasons set forth below.

As acknowledged in the Office Action, Kitahara is silent as to control of image data based on voice level transmitted. It is suggested in the Office Action that Kamata teaches this aspect by showing that an image is switched based on a voice level transmitted. However, such switching in Kamata is merely equivalent to switching of screen images in TV conference that convokers passively watch. For this reason, Kamata does not disclose or suggest the specific mechanism or means or equivalent thereof, as in the system of the presently claimed inventions, which can be actively used by users. For example, in the presently claimed inventions, a user acquires a control right in response to such switching and then starts controlling the screen image.

Further, Kamata does not appear to disclose or suggest that plural selectable and controllable cameras are provided and the control right for each camera is requested in response

to, e.g., a voice level to enable to control it. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not combine the references, in the manner suggested by the Examiner or in the appropriate context, to render obvious the presently claimed inventions.

Incidentally, as the active control, the presently claimed inventions show, in addition to the acquisition of control right, control of transmission data amount and control of transmission start and stop. More specifically, in a case where an image is monitored by plural users, although the control right for one camera is only one, the requests of these users to this camera might be different. By way of example, a user 1 wishes to control the camera to check on glass breaking and of which the voice level is thus maximum; a user 2 wishes to control the camera to check on a sleeping baby and of which the voice level is thus minimum; and a user 3 wishes to scare a robber by moving the camera every time a voice level changes. Thus, it is believed that to variably use the control right according to the voice levels is sufficiently effective. That is, a characteristic of the presently claimed inventions is directed to the mechanism of acquiring the control right.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that the above-noted characteristics or aspects of the present inventions of claims 11-23 and 34-37 are neither disclosed nor suggested by Kitahara and Kamata, individually or in combination. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims are respectfully requested.

For the Examiner's reference, an example of acquiring the control right is shown in the fifth embodiment (pages 24-29 in the originally filed specification); an example of high-quality/high-frame-rate/low-compression control is shown in the sixth embodiment (pages 29-41 in the originally filed specification); and an example of step-by-step transmission amount control is shown in the seventh embodiment (pages 41-45 in the originally filed specification).

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4391.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4391.

Respectfully submitted,
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